(e) An amount of Rs. 3.00 crore in the central budget and Rs. 3.50 crore in the State budget are the proposed allocations for 2003-04. However, release of funds shall be subject to progress of projects and utilization of earlier released funds.

Monkey menace

3218. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the moneky menace in Delhi is assuming grave proportions with attacks on women and children in selected areas;

(b) whether the Supreme Court had ordered, on a suit filed by an NGO, for action by civil authorities for elimination of stra animals from the city;

(c) whether the neighbouring States U.P. and Madhya Pradesh have agreed to keep Delhi monkeys in their jungles; and

(d) the steps being proposed to end monkey menace in Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV) : (a) A few stray cases have been reported in a section of press.

(b) Hon'ble Supreme Court has observed that effective steps for containing the menace of monkeys, stray dogs and cattle need to be taken in National Capital Territory of Delhi.

(c) Yes Sir.

(d) The civic agencies of Delhi/New Delhi have taken steps to catch monkeys. A Monkey shelter has been constructed at Rajokari for giving shelter to the captured monkeys and for their medical treatment before their translocation to forest area. 200 of the captured monkeys have already been translocated to the forest area of Uttar Pradesh.

Encroachment of forest land

†3219. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that in spite of the orders issued by the Supreme Court in 1996, the number of persons, who encroach the forest land illegally in the country, is increasing;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.